

GREAT FIRE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

The New York Tribune contains three columns of losses by the recent fire. Among others in this list, we notice the loss of the library and papers of Frank M. Pixley, the city Attorney, late of Detroit. The Tribune's list embraces about six hundred and fifty persons and firms—and the aggregate loss is set down by all the papers at \$12,000,000. Supposing the list of losses to embrace all the sufferers by the fire—it presents the almost incredible fact, of an average loss of \$18,451 by each person and firm. In this country we have no data, by which such a result can be brought within the range of possibilities, in a city the size of San Francisco. But it must be recollected that property is estimated by different rates from those which govern valuations here. The exports from San Francisco the present spring, have been greater than those of New York. The latter city receives nearly one-half of the current revenues from customs, while its exports do not reach one-sixth. Yet the amount of exports at San Francisco are prodigious, and such a result could not fail to have an effect upon real estate valuations.

The papers are full of accounts of the fire, and among other items it is stated that Messrs. Hewitt & Harrison, for the want of water, used 80,000 gallons of vinegar in preserving their warehouse.

In blowing up the Sacramento Hotel, Broadway, the first explosion was ineffectual, and it was thought that only one of the casks planted had ignited, and yet, in this uncertainty, a daring spirit was found, who walked into the building already in flames, with two more casks of powder, fired the fuse and retreated coolly. In less than a minute after, the huge building crumbled into fragments upon its own foundation.

The mass of shipping that crowd our harbor was in imminent danger of taking fire on Saturday night. Had one vessel caught the flames, so close together are they all anchored, and so hopeless the idea of moving, that the entire fleet would have, in all probability, been consumed. As it was, the captains and crews had to be constantly on the alert to preserve their vessels.—The ship Susan Drew, Capt. Holbrook, took fire three times from the burning brands that were driven upon her by the wind, but by prompt application of water, she was each time saved.—Several others were also on fire at various times, but none, we are happy to say, were burned.

The Editor of the Alta Californian gives the following vivid picture of the conflagration:

Iron and zinc curled up like scorched leaves, and sent forth their brilliant flames of green, blue and yellow tints; mingling with and modifying the great red tongues of the fires which flashed upward from a thousand burning houses. The hill sides were lighted as if the sun were above the eastern mountains, and the trees, shrubs, herbage and houses were as distinguishable in the bright light as if it were noon. Darkness hung over a large portion of the shipping, where the broad and heavy ocean of smoke lay down in impenetrable gloom over the bay. People became paralyzed. Many removed their stocks of goods, or portion of them, four or five times, and had them overtaken and destroyed at last. The streets were crammed with masses of human beings and rushing teams only giving way before the advance of the elements, as the smoke and heat and crashing walls pushed them back. Men became mad; some rushed headlong into the flames. Weeping women and prattling infancy were wandering amid ashes and destruction. Every few moments the earth and air trembled, as great buildings were torn into fragments by the explosions of gunpowder, and the atmosphere was filled with shattered timbers, brick and mortar. The multitude hung upon the borders of this "vast sea of fire," few comparatively knew, or could know, what were the dangers and exertions of those who were within the range of the stifling smoke and scorching flames. In less than nine hours from the beginning, more than twenty squares existed only in memory and in the ascending columns of smoke and flame which covered the city's site.

But the saddest sight of all was the destruction of brave, but bewildered men, who suddenly surrounded with fire, rushed, staggered and uncertain, in hopeless efforts to escape, until strangled and scorched, they writhed and fell in full view of hundreds, who were completely powerless to save them. Others, after battling inside of what they had considered fire proofs, finding their efforts, to save the buildings, vain, endeavored to escape, but too late. The doors and window blinds were red hot, and could not be opened in some instances, as their last chance of safety failed them.

We cannot express our sensation of yesterday, while looking upon the blackened remains of poor humanity, as they still lay, burned to coals, amid the fire which filled the cellar of a building on Montgomery st., still beyond the reach of all who gazed upon them. May we never again see so horrible a spectacle.

SAN FRANCISCO REBUILDING.—The whole city is alive with workmen, engaged in rebuilding upon the burnt district. The Alta Californian gives the following astonishing instances:

From Monday, 5th instant, when the fire ceased, up to the present time, May, 14th, an interval of ten days, three hundred and fifty-seven buildings have been commenced, of which the major part are finished and occupied. This is exclusive of the many that are going up in other parts of the city not touched by the fire. Including them, the total number of houses just completed, or in course of erection throughout the city, will not fall short of 450. Of course, from the rapidity with which they have been put up, most of them are frame, but still in every instance in which a brick building was burnt either the walls still standing will be used in rebuilding, or where they are unfit, a new brick fire-proof building will be erected in the place of the one destroyed.

EARTHQUAKE IN SAN FRANCISCO.—On the morning of the 15th of May, a severe shock of an earthquake was felt in San Francisco, which lasted nearly a minute. The buildings and wharves of the city shook tremendously, and in a few seconds the streets were filled with people, seeking safety in the open air. We do not learn that any damage was done to persons or property.

The Mexican papers announce that six very rich mines have been discovered at Cuernavaca. They yield from 60 to 65 per cent of pure metal. The least product is 25 per cent.

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

GRAND HAVEN, MICH.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 2, 1851.

TO OUR PATRONS AND FRIENDS.

We present you with the first number of the Grand River Times, and accompanying it will be expected what we acknowledge to be your due, viz: a setting forth of the reasons which operated upon our minds as an inducement to engage in this enterprise—the principles which shall guide us in conducting our paper, etc.—The question "will it pay," has been so frequently asked by those with whom we have conversed upon our new undertaking—indeed, a majority of the citizens of Ottawa will find this to be an inquiry that first arises in the mind upon learning that a paper is established in Grand Haven—that we will give our opinion of the probable chances of success, peculiarly. We have not come out in this new character through speculative motives, neither do we anticipate a support so meager as to be obliged in a few months to close office and seek a livelihood in an occupation whose reward is more sure. In short, we hope not to grow poorer by this operation, and so long as the encouragement we receive shall be adequate to an economical livelihood, so long shall we continue to issue the "Times."

From a due consideration of the subject, we have been brought to the belief, that a paper established within our own limits, with liberal political views, and judiciously managed in all its departments would, in a great measure contribute to the interest and permanent welfare of our County. We commence our career under a strong impression that we can furnish the citizens of Ottawa County with such a publication, and that all will be proud to hail our advent in this new character with due encouragement for success.

We have always been subscribers to the Democratic faith, and the principles our paper will advocate, politically, must, of course be akin to our own. Nominations for office, fairly and legitimately made by the Democratic party, shall always receive our sanction and support. Our literary miscellany shall be selected with care, and nothing except what has in its tendency, an elevating, healthy influence shall be presented to our readers. In our intercourse with the world, the establishment of a character and reputation which should abide the test and scrutiny of the virtuous and good, has been our first and chief study; and holding the opinion that the paper we conduct is to be a part and parcel of our own character, an exponent of what we intrinsically are; it shall be our aim to guard its reputation with that jealous care which has always been exercised over our individual conduct.

After the present number, we intend giving, weekly, the condition of the markets in this village for the various products of the Grand River valley, which naturally seek Grand Haven as a depot, and thus make the "Times" a correct and convenient reference for business men throughout the Grand River valley. In connection with this will be given a marine list, in which will be found the arrivals and departures of vessels, steamboats and propellers.

HENRY PENNOYER Esq., will take charge of our editorial columns on his return from Detroit, where he is absent for a few weeks, as a Juror in the U.S. District Court, now in session. Mr. PENNOYER is well known throughout the county as an active Democrat, and from the many important stations of public trust which have been for several years past successively committed to his keeping; will be considered as eminently qualified for this station.

And now friends of Ottawa County, we make to you our appeal. By the recent census, the population of our county is returned as 6,490, and out of that number we confidently set down 500 as the smallest number who shall leave their names on our subscription book and their dollar, each, in our pockets, as a fair exchange for as many copies of the Grand River Times. We do not ask you, in pity, to come forward and be our subscribers, and go away with the thought that you have done only a deed of charity for which a reward in the world is among the doubtful. We ask you to patronize our paper with no other feeling than that you have discharged a duty in support of a laudable enterprise for which you receive an adequate equivalent. For the kind encouragement which we have already received from some of our most respectable and influential citizens of both political parties, we do and ever shall feel grateful.

PUBLISHERS.

When thirty-six hours shall pass away, the seventy-fifth anniversary of our National Independence will be upon us. Are the patriotic boys of Grand Haven, with "Eddy" at their head, well prepared to celebrate "The Fourth?" We remember your brilliant bonfire and pyrotechnic works of the last anniversary, and from the heap of combustibles now on the green we guess the approaching celebration will in no wise be inferior to its predecessors. Get out your fire works boys, when twilight is gone and burst them all to pieces!

The issue of our next number will be postponed two weeks. We suspend publication next week to get in our subscription list and advertisements. In the mean time we hope all who wish to become subscribers will forward their names; and those wishing to advertise will please send or hand us their advertisements as early as convenient. After this omission, our payments will be made when due.

GRAND HAVEN.—Its position, resources, trade, commerce, manufactures and relative importance as the principal outlet of the products of Michigan, north of the Central Railroad.

Messrs. BARNES & ANGEL.—Your praiseworthy enterprise manifested in the appearance of the "Times" as the exponent of the affairs and progress of the Grand River valley, is hailed with the best wishes for your success, by all who feel an interest in the prosperity of this ultima thule of the Peninsular State. It is the peculiar province of the newspaper press, to send abroad a knowledge of the place from which it emanates, and from the facts and statistics it publishes, a correct idea is gained by strangers of its importance, as a constituent part of the body politic. This is done in various ways by means of the journals of the present day—but not so fully as is desirable by those who expect that such journals will be as it were a map of the country or village it represents. In most of the country papers, all the information given of the place, is to be gleaned from the advertisements and the "Business Directory," without which it might as well be issued from the moon, as from any sublimity spot, so far as any idea can be formed of the locality it hails from. Thus premising what I have to say of Grand Haven, I hasten to introduce our village and its environs to your readers far and near, to many of whom such an out of the way place perchance, "was never dreamed of in their philosophy."

Grand Haven—the county seat of Ottawa County Mich., 213 miles West by North from Detroit, is situated on the South bank of Grand River, half a mile from its entrance into Lake Michigan between which and the Lake are sand hills 200 feet in height. Its harbor, (the best on this side of the Lake) could be made by the construction of piers superior to any on the upper Lakes, and with such an improvement by the general government, would open to the interior of the State by rail and plank roads to the Rapids, a channel for the outlet of a vast amount of produce, the staples of a soil abounding in agricultural and mineral wealth, and the inlet of the products of the world abroad.—At the present writing there is from ten to thirty feet depth of water in the channel, which is indicated by lights and guides established at the mouth of the river. For the benefit of transient vessels drawing more than eight feet, it may be well to state here that the inner and outer bars extend from the north and south past the line of the ranges, preventing a straight passage out—but the buoy north of the outside bar is placed a little north of the range lights, in thirteen feet water; by keeping in range over the outside bar there is 8 1/2 feet, and inside of it there is not less than ten feet in range.

Grand Haven contains a Court House which is used also as a church, a Jail, a School House with spacious rooms above and below, with a cupola and bell, a beautiful edifice which cost nearly two thousand dollars, and accommodates over one hundred scholars pursuing the various branches of education, under accomplished teachers, open to all classes of youth, including the penniless as well as the rich. There are three large public houses, well sustained, one of which, the Washington, is three stories high with a Hall in the attic, occupied by the Odd Fellows. There are five stores, three forwarding houses, two shops, several groceries, a large tannery, tailor shop, blacksmith and carpenter shops and several fisheries.

The principal business of the place is the manufacture and shipment of lumber. The number of steam and water mills for that purpose within the range of navigation here, and in this part of the county is fourteen, five only of which are water mills, the remainder mostly double steam mills, which make an average of 20,000 feet in 24 hours. The quantities of lumber shipped from this port this season will amount to nearly or quite 30,000,000 feet besides a proportionate amount of shingles, single-bolts, lath, wood, cedar posts, bark &c., &c. Heavy shipments of wheat, flour and plaster, have been made this season, and a large amount of merchandise received for this place and the various points in Ottawa, Kent and Ionia. On the river two steamers ply between this place and Grand Rapids, and one connects above to Ionia—making about eighty miles inland navigation towards Lansing the Capital of the State, from which a plank road is nearly completed to Detroit and is to be extended west to Ionia and Grand Rapids. Stock is now being taken at Kalamazoo for a plank road to Grand Rapids, which improvements will facilitate travel from the East to Milwaukee, by way of Grand Haven. Propellers from Buffalo touch here semi-monthly en route for Chicago, and a fleet of about twenty sail take nearly a million feet of lumber a week to Chicago and other ports. The pure and healthful breeze from the Lake dissipates the miasma of the marshes and renders the occupation of our two physicians one of considerable leisure. There are no Lawyers here, and a good one would find employment in this and the counties North. The population of the county is 6,490, embracing the Holland Colony, twenty miles south of the county seat, on Black River, another good harbor when improved by government. The population of this village and Mill Point is about 1000.

I have thus hastily glanced at the present condition of Grand Haven as respects its present business and improvements. Its origin, history and future prospects may be the theme of another article from your correspondent, if time and opportunity will permit.

On Friday last, as the steamer Empire was making her downward trip, a spark from the smoke pipe alighted among the shavings and saw dust near the Store House of the Messrs. Norton's, in their mill yard; and discharging ill-effects amid materials subservient to its will, this mischievous offspring immediately set to work and consumed the Store House, together with a quantity of wood and lumber. Most of the valuables in store were saved.—Two or three accidents of this kind may suggest to the proprietors of the Empire the necessity of screening her smoke pipe and thus effectually preventing a recurrence of such calamities.

DROWNED.—At the mouth of White River, twenty-four miles North of this place, on Monday, 23d of June, HENRY PATRICK, son of JOHN PATRICK of Kalamazoo, aged about sixteen. He was left on board the schooner Telegraph while the hands were ashore getting out lumber from Mr. FERRY's steam mill, by lighters to the vessel; during their absence he got into the small boat and attempting to scull around the vessel was immediately thrown into the Lake. His cries were heard on shore, but he sunk before help could reach him. The body was found on Tuesday, July 1st, and buried at White Lake.

DECISION OF JUDGE McLEAN

In the United States Court on the subject of the seizure of Vessels for carrying timber and lumber.

Judge McLean yesterday rendered a decision on the legality of the recent seizure of Vessels in this State for alleged violations of law, in carrying lumber and timber from the public lands. We are glad to have it in our power to publish that portion of the decision (which embraces the whole question of trespass, &c.) which bears directly upon the right of seizure of vessels in the numerous cases before the court. [Free Press.]

But the question as to the forfeiture of the vessel is governed by the second section. That provides, "that if the master, owner, or consignee of any ship or vessel shall, knowingly, take on board any timber cut on lands which shall have been reserved or purchased as aforesaid, &c., or shall take on board any live oak or red cedar timber cut on any other lands of the United States, with intent to transport the same, the ship or vessel, shall, with all her tackle, apparel, &c., be forfeited to the United States," &c.

Now the question has arisen whether the vessel incurs a forfeiture under the above provision, by transporting &c., any timber not taken from lands reserved for Naval purposes, or if taken from other lands of the United States which is not "live oak or red cedar," not so reserved. The words of the section are so explicit, that there would seem to be no doubt of their meaning. The first part of the provision undoubtedly applies to lands reserved, and it is equally clear that the second part embraces lands not reserved. A forfeiture is incurred if the vessel takes on board any timber cut on the lands reserved; but to incur a forfeiture, under the second provision, for taking timber from lands not reserved for naval purposes, it must be "live oak or red cedar."

It is insisted that the words in the second section "purchased as aforesaid," refer to the words of the first section, "or timber from any other lands of the United States, acquired or hereafter to be acquired." That under the construction given to the first section, these words subject the person removing the timber to an indictment, fine and imprisonment, is admitted; but the words "purchased as aforesaid" cannot, by any fair interpretation, be made to refer to any other words in the first section than the identical words there used. "Or if any person or persons shall remove, &c., from any such lands which shall have been reserved or purchased as aforesaid," is the language of the first section; and they are the same words used in the second section, and are used in the same connection.

That this is the correct construction, is manifest from the fact that, the second section also provides in the words which follow: that "live oak or red cedar," taken on board from other lands than those reserved, shall cause a forfeiture of the vessel. Now, if the words in the second section "purchased as aforesaid," refer as contended, to lands not reserved, this provision was unnecessary. It limits the forfeiture to "live oak and red cedar;" but if the reference contended for be the true construction, then the forfeiture of the vessel is incurred for transporting any kind of timber cut on the public lands. If timber of any kind, even for fire wood, were taken on board from an improvement of an occupant, to whom a pre-emptive right was subsequently given by law, the vessel would be forfeited. Such a construction would make the second section inconsistent in its provisions, which ought never to be done by construction. It would impose a forfeiture of the vessel for taking on board timber from reserved lands, from lands not reserved, and then only for taking from unreserved lands, "live oak and red cedar."

THE APPOINTMENT BILL. Fixing the ratio of representation at 5000, passed the House of Representatives on the 16th ult. This ratio will give the County of Wayne 8; Oakland and Washtenaw 6 each; Lenawee 5; Calhoun and Jackson 4 each; Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, and St. Joseph 3 each; Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Lapeer, Ottawa, Shiawassee, Van Buren, Saginaw, Mackinaw, and Tuscola, 1 each; Clinton and Gratiot compose one Representative district; Sanilac and Huron one; Midland, Gladwin and Arzac one; Montcalm, Isabella, Mecosta, Osceola, and Clare, one; Newaygo, Oceana, Lake, Mason, and Manistee, one; Grand Traverse, Wexford, Missaukee, Rosecommon, Ogemaw, Josco, Alcona, Oscoda, Crawford, Kalkaska, Omena, Leelanau, Antrim, Osago, Montmorency, Alpena, Presque Isle, Wyandot, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Cheboygan, one; Chippewa, Marquette, Schoolcraft, and Delta, one; Houghton and Ontonagon, one.

[Pontiac Gazette.]

POST MASTER ARRESTED.—The Port Huron Commercial says the Post Master at Lexington, Sanilac county, has been arrested on a charge of abstracting money from letters to the amount of several hundred dollars.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ENGLAND.—The Parliamentary intelligence is entirely destitute of interest to American readers.

The success of the World's Fair in London still continues to be the great theme of conversation. On the 2d of June, nearly £1,800 was taken at the doors, and the London Times states that on the 3d ult., the number of people who visited the Exhibition was officially returned at 53,371, the amount taken at 1s a head, and by the sale of season tickets, being £2,415 2s sterling.

SPAIN.—The accounts from Spain are important. M. Orense, Marquis de Albaday, president of the Spanish democrats, has circulated an address containing his political programme.—The government had ordered the police to prevent the circulation of the document; but its circulation was immense. The address advocates the union of the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal, under a republic, and other measures of administrative and financial reform. It was tho't in Madrid that a liberal movement was not far distant. The correspondent of the London Times says, that wisdom and good management on the part of the ministers can alone avert it; rigor would probably only anticipate an insurrection. The Herald refers to the great nightly precautions taken in the Spanish capital by the authorities—and there was every reason to fear that there were grounds for them—and the government was said to be acting on information derived from a good source.

RUSSIA.—The Duke of Leuchtenberg, son-in-law of the Emperor of Russia, is so dangerously ill that his life is despaired of.

DEATHS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.—His Excellency Richard Lalor Shiel, the British Minister at Florence, died unexpectedly on the 26th of May. Mr. Shiel had only been appointed a few months and was formerly Master of the Mint. He was one of the most eloquent and impassioned speakers in the British House of Commons.

The decease of the Earl of Shaftsbury is also mentioned by this mail. He has for many years chairman of committees in the House of Lords. [N. Y. Herald.]

The following extract is from the New York Herald of June 25th:

THE CANADA PARLIAMENT.—"Politics are waxing hot in Canada. The United States are threatened with an embargo upon its vessels and products. The Welland Canal is to be closed against us. We are to be denied the privilege of navigating the St. Lawrence. The mail steamers between the United States and England, Ireland and Scotland—Canard's line, Collins' line, the Southampton line, and the Glasgow line, and the contemplated Galway line—are to be run off the ocean by Canadian competition. We are to be deprived of telegraphic news from Europe via Halifax—and the Lord knows what else is to be done—unless Congress pass the 'Reciprocity bill' at the next session.

In the face of all these fearful threats, we state positively that there is no probability that Congress will adopt that measure. This country is getting along very well under the present arrangements. Very few in the United States have any interest in what is called the "reciprocity measure" desired by the Canadians. Some of the limited number of traders along the Canada frontiers, not concerned in smuggling both ways, may desire it; but there is no substantial interest in this country that would be benefited by it. Canada may therefore do what she can best do, to better herself, for there is not the slightest prospect of the measure as desired, or any kind of measure, being adopted. When Great Britain desires to place trade and commerce between her and her colonies, and this country, on a more liberal footing when she is disposed to adopt a general system of reciprocal low duties—this country will gladly meet her with a corresponding spirit, provided men who are in favor of the free trade policy are in power; but it is idle to look for special adoption of the reciprocity rule for the gratification of the people of Canada, and those of the United States residing on her borders, which is not extended to our citizens of other nations, with respect to foreign countries adjacent to them. South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and in fact, all the Gulf and Southwestern States, may ask for special arrangements as to trade with the Bahamas, Jamaica, Cuba, Porto Rico, and the West Indies generally, and Mexico; and California and Oregon may ask special reciprocal arrangements for their belt with Chili, Peru, the Sandwich Islands, Ceylon, Hindostan, &c. The eastern manufacturers of the United States, whilst they oppose the system of low duties, and insist on a high tariff protection against competing European manufactures, cannot, with honest faces, ask for reciprocal duties with Canada, to create a market for their manufactures."

The following is a list of acts passed by the Legislature and approved by the Executive, up to this date:—June 25th.

An act to provide for payment of the members and officers of extra session of the Legislature;

An act prescribing the manner of filling vacancies in certain State offices;

An act to provide for the payment of the accruing indebtedness of the State;

An act to amend section 7 of an act entitled to provide for publishing reports of State officers, &c.;

An act to provide for the publication of legal notices;

An act to provide for let to contract the furnishing of fuel and stutry for the use of the State, and also the Statuting and binding.

Neither of the apportionment bills have yet passed the two Houses. A bill providing for a sinking fund passed the House, but was lost in the Senate, not having a majority of votes of all the Senators. The tax bill is under consideration at present. Saturday noon will wind up the session, when we shall be better able to tell what will be passed and what left undone. The State is mostly thro' with their business, and along the action of the House. [N. Y. Journal.]

Under the next census Hampshire loses one Representative to Coloss. The same is the case with Maine and Mont. Massachusetts alone of the New England States gains one, owing to her increase from foreign emigrants.